

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 AF-04 ARA-10
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
SSM-03 SP-02 PM-03 PA-01 DODE-00 /064 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0627
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01375

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, MARR, MOPS, UNSC, IS, LE, XF

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: ISRAELI DEMARCHE ON SC
CONSULTATIONS ON APRIL 10

1. ISRAELI MISOFF LAMDAN CALLED POLCOUNS UNDER
INSTRUCTION APRIL 11 TO CONVEY THE VIEWS OF THE ISRAELI
GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS
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OF APRIL 10. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO BE
APPROACHING THE DEPARTMENT AND THE OTHER WESTERN MEMBERS
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WITH THE SAME MESSAGE. LAMDAN
SAID HE WAS CALLING URGENTLY IN THE ABSENCE OF MORE
SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE ISRAELI MISSION.

2. LAMDAN SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY TO US THE

CONCERN OF HIS GOVERNMENT THAT DURING THE APRIL 10 SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS NO ONE SPOKE OUT CLEARLY AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF A FORMAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OR THE SUGGESTION OF POSSIBLE CHAPTER VII ACTION BY THE COUNCIL. HE SAID IT CONTINUES TO BE THE STRONG ISRAELI VIEW THAT BOWING TO A DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES WITHOUT THE GUARANTEE OF AN EFFECTIVE UNIFIL CAPABILITY WILL RESULT IN A RETURN OF THE PLO TO THEIR THREATENING POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, ENDANGER THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES AND DESTROY ANY CHANCE OF A RETURN OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY TO THE SOUTHERN AREA.

3. LAMDAN SAID THEY ARE WONDERING WHETHER THE UN ITSELF IS PLAYING A GAME. HE SAID THE UN FIELD COMMANDERS HAVE NOT BEEN UNHAPPY WITH THE ISRAELI PLANS FOR WITHDRAWAL. THEY HAVE CONTINUED TO WORK HARD ON ESTABLISHING UNIFIL IN THE FIELD AND GAINING CONTROL OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. HE SAID IT HAS ONLY BEEN THE UN STAFF IN NEW YORK THAT HAS BEEN "BELLYACHING" ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL. EXCEPT FOR "ONE JARRING NOTE" EARLY LAST WEEK (APRIL 3), GENERAL SIILASVUO HAS CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS IN HIS TALKS WITH ISRAELI DEFENSE OFFICIALS. THERE HAS BEEN NO EXPRESSION OF DISSATISFACTION FROM SIILASVUO OR OTHER UN COMMANDERS SINCE ISRAEL OFFERED CONFIDENTIAL

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ITS WITHDRAWAL PLAN ON APRIL 6. INSTEAD, SIILASVUO HAS EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN ABOUT POTENTIAL DANGER TO HIS FLANKS. WHEN SIILASVUO ASKED ISRAELI CONCURRENCE IN MOVING LEBANESE GENDARMES INTO THE SOUTH, ISRAEL IMMEDIATELY APPROVED. SIILASVUO, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MOVE THEM THROUGH THE PLO-CONTROLLED ZONE. THE ISRAELIS TOLD SIILASVUO THAT THEY CONSIDER SC RESOLUTION 425 APPLICABLE TO THE AREA NORTH OF THE LITANI RIVER. BECAUSE OF THE INABILITY OF SIILASVUO TO ESTABLISH HIS CONFIDENT CONTROL OF THE AREA, ANY DEMAND FOR AN "UNCOORDINATED" WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THE NORTHEAST, AROUND TYRE AND IN THE CHRISTIAN AREA AROUND MARJAYOUN. LAMDAN SAID HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVE SIILASVUO HAS BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THESE PROBLEMS, BUT HIS UN HEADQUARTERS HAVE CONTINUED TO DEMAND IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL.

4. LAMDAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD OPPOSE ANY MOVE TOWARD A FORMAL MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND ANY DRIVE TOWARD CHAPTER VII SANCTIONS. IF THE COUNCIL INSISTS ON MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION, ISRAEL WILL HAVE NO

RECOURSE BUT TO PUBLISH IN FULL "EVERYTHING THE UN HAS NOT PUBLISHED". HE CLAIMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON DOES NOT WANT AN UNCOORDINATED, UNCONDITIONAL, IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON. HE INTIMATED THAT PART OF THE ISRAELI BRIEF WOULD "POINT A FINGER" AT LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TUENI FOR HIS ALLEGED MISREPRESENTATIONS OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE IN NEW YORK.

5. POLCOUNS PROMISED TO REPORT THE ISRAELI VIEWS. HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE VIEWS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT AND CLEAR THROUGHOUT THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING SOUTHERN LEBANON. WE WERE STRONGLY IMPRESSED BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MOOD IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE OBVIOUSLY MOUNTING DANGER THAT WE WOULD BE FACED WITH FORMAL

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COUNCIL ACTIONS WHICH NEITHER THE U.S. NOR ISRAEL WANTS
REGARDLESS OF ANY OPPOSITION WE COULD RAISE. WE
BELIEVE WE MUST HAVE SWIFT RESPONSE FROM ISRAEL
TO THE CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL IN THE FORM OF CONCRETE
PLANS FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL WITH A TIME LIMIT ATTACHED
AND IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT IT, IF WE ARE TO
AVOID REAL TROUBLE IN THE COUNCIL WITHIN A MATTER
OF DAYS. WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE CONDITIONAL RESPONSE
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OF ISRAEL, AS WE HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR. LAMDAN
REPEATED THE MAJOR LINES OF ISRAELI ARGUMENT FOR
WITHDRAWAL ONLY AFTER SOUTHERN LEBANON HAS BEEN SECURED.

6. COMMENT: THE FUNDAMENTAL DISCORD IN U.S. AND ISRAELI
POSITIONS ON IDF WITHDRAWAL IS APPARENT IN THIS DEMARCHE.
WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO AMB. HERZOG THAT USG DOES NOT
BELIEVE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL CAN AWAIT THE COMPLETE
DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL. AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE PRESSING
FOR THAT DEPLOYMENT TO MOVE AHEAD AS RAPIDLY AS
POSSIBLE. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE NOT
YET REALIZED THAT DELAY IN THEIR WITHDRAWAL IN SOME
RESPECTS ACTUALLY HAMPERS UNIFIL AND AT WORST COULD
BRING INTO JEOPARDY THE ENTIRE UNIFIL OPERATION. AS FOR
LAMDAN'S COMMENTS ON CHAPTER VII AND AN OIL EMBARGO,
THE ISRAELI MISSION IS, OF COURSE, WELL AWARE OF OUR
EFFORTS TO AVOID A FORMAL SC MEETING AND ANY MOVES TOWARD
SUCH DRASTIC ACTION. ON THE LEBANESE
POSITION, SEPTTEL REPORTS OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED BY
PM EL-HOSS APRIL 11 DEMANDING WITHDRAWAL. YOUNG

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